

# ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

## PRESS RELEASE

### Alaska State Museum

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## Carla Potter Solo Show Closing

November 18 is the final day to see “Shaping Desire,” a solo exhibit of ceramic sculpture by Alaska artist Carla Potter at the Alaska State Museum.

The exhibition features 25 sensuous, sea-inspired sculptures. Potter’s imagery is strongly influenced by a lifetime near the tidal zone. Tentacles caress the air or wrap themselves around anemones. Mussel-encrusted pilings hold up the layers of a 4-foot-high wedding cake. Colorful glazes gleam as if moist from an outgoing tide. Potter said she uses underwater images as subtle symbols of the conflicting desires to attract others and protect oneself, and as a commentary on societal expectations.

“The wedding cake is kind of a metaphor for the way traditions and images sell us and pull us into certain ideas about how we have to live our lives,” said Potter, who included a remote control in the calliope of images embedded on the cake. “To have it speak it more to the whole entity of being married and that it’s not just one pretty little moment.”

Potter grew up in Ketchikan and returned after earning a B.A. in studio ceramics at Humboldt State University in Northern California. She taught there for 10 years as an artist in the schools and at the University of Alaska Southeast. Potter led two dynamic and energy-filled workshops for youth while her exhibit was on display.

Her fanciful ceramics have been featured in solo, group and invitational exhibitions across Alaska and in California, Oregon and Montana. She twice received Jurors’ Awards for her clay sculpture in the statewide Earth, Fire & Fibre exhibit. In 2005 she was awarded a Rasmuson Foundation individual artist fellowship. Her work is in many private and public collections, including the Tongass Historical Museum, the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, the Decker/Morris Gallery Permanent Collection, the Sandy Besser Collection, and the Sara and David Lieberman Collection.

“Shaping Desire” is Potter’s homecoming show to Alaska, after a two-year residency at the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts in Helena, Mont. After the exhibition closes in Juneau it will travel to Ketchikan and then Homer.

Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, except holidays. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

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